

Appln No. 10/820,480
Amdt date January 5, 2007
Reply to Office action of September 5, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-30 now remain pending in this application. Applicant has amended claims 1, 15, 29 and 30 to place those claims in condition for allowance. The amendments and new claims find full support in the original specification, claims and drawings. No new matter is presented. Applicant submits that all of pending claims 1-30 are in condition for allowance and therefore respectfully requests reconsideration and a timely indication of allowance.

In the Final Rejection dated September 5, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Moaddeb, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,405,078) in view of Skalsky, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,844,099). However, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 15, 29 and 30 to recite that the non-conductive porous material is configured to avoid substantial contact with the tissue. Applicant has also amended the specification to recite that the metal coating prevents substantial contact of the non-conductive porous material of the tip electrode with the target tissue. These amendments find support, for example in original Figures 3A, 3B and 8. As shown in those Figures, the conductive porous coating 84 covers or encapsulates the non-conductive porous material 86, whereby substantial contact of the non-conductive porous material 86 with the target tissue is avoided.

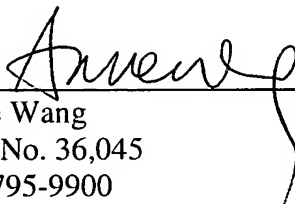
Neither Moaddeb nor Skalsky teaches or suggests the features recited in amended independent claims 1, 15, 29 and 30. Rather, Skalsky discloses a pacing lead with both porous and conductive characteristics on its surface. The pacing lead in Skalsky relies on the porous components of the surface to facilitate attachment of the lead to the tissue. Column 2, lines 21-23. Accordingly, Skalsky fails to disclose that the non-conductive porous material is configured to avoid substantial contact with the tissue, as recited in amended independent claims 1, 15 29 and 30. In fact, Skalsky discloses exactly the opposite since the Skalsky pacing lead requires contact of the non-conductive porous components with tissue to enable attachment of the pacing lead to the tissue. Without such contact, Skalsky's pacing lead would have a substantially decreased ability to attach to tissue. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 15, 29 and 30, and all

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claims dependent therefrom, including claims 2-14 and 16-28, are allowable over Moaddeb and Skalsky.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all of pending claim 1-30, as amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests a timely indication of allowance. However, if there are any remaining issues that can be addressed by telephone, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact Applicant's counsel at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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